Anti-tobacco talk by Dr. Michael Shimkin at the opening of the National Cancer Conference in Milwaukee September 13 gained some press attention, chiefly in the Scripps-Howard chain, as a result of this John Troan story. Some Scripps-Howard papers did not use the Troan story.

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THE WASHINGTON DAILY NEWS
Washington, D.C.
September 13, 1960

20,000 PEOPLE A YEAR

Expert Says Cigaret Ban Would be Big Life-Saver

By JOHN TROAN
Scripps-Howard Science Writer

MINNEAPOLIS, Sept. 13—A new kind of prohibition—on cigarets—would save at least 20,000 lives a year in the United States, a scientist from the National Cancer Institute said today.

But Dr. Michael Shimkin conceded such a ban would be difficult to invoke because "tobacco is considered neither a food nor a drug and appears to be immune from all regulations except taxation."

Besides, he said, many folks seem to subscribe to "the theory that it is a Constitutional right to choose one' poison."

As a result, he complained, the Government can do more "to protect the population" from chemically - contaminated cranberries — whose "dangers for man are at most theoretical" — than from the hazards of tobacco.

Dr. Shimkin spoke here at the opening of the three-day National Cancer Conference, a "summit meeting" of cancer researchers held every four years. About 2000 scientists are to attend.

In his keynote adress, he challenged repeatedly assertions by Dr. Joseph Berkson, a prominent statistician at nearby Mayo Clinic, that nobody has proved cigaret smoking can give people lung cancer.

Dr. Shimkin insisted that:

- An "association" bet veen smoking and lung cancer has been shown by "many statistical investigations."
- At least 10 chemicals which can cause cancer in animals have been identified in tobacco smoke thru "extensive laboratory experiments."
- "Careful observations" of human tissue have shown tobacco produces changes in the lining of the breathing tubes similar to the kind which lead to cancer.

Concluded Dr. Shimkin:

"It all adds up to this—if tobacco smoking, at least in some form of cigarets, were terminated, the annual mortality from lung cancer could be reduced by more than 60 per cent, a saving of at least 20,000 lives in the U. S. alone."

He said doctors must realize this business of smoking is "a serious public health problem and not a stale joke."

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KNOXVILLE NEWS-SENTINEL
Knoxville, Tennessee
September 14, 1960

Cigaret-Death Link Challenged

By Scripps-Howard Newspapers

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14 — The tobacco industry today challenged a cancer researcher's claim that prohibition of cigaret smoking would save 20,000 lives a year.

Edward F. Ragland, vice president of the Tobacco Institute Inc., criticized the cigaret ban suggestion as an "extreme stand" by a "small, self-appointed anti-tobacco group" which "is now trying to dictate to laymen and doctors."

The proposal was made by Dr. Michael Shimkin of the National Cancer Institute before the 4th National Cancer Conference in Minneapolis.

Ragland said Dr. Shimkin "ignores the sizable and growing research evidence that does not support his position" that lung cancer is associated with cigaret smoking.

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD
Birmingham, Alabama
September 15, 1960

Tobacco Men Give Challenge

By Scripps-Howard Newspapers

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14—The tobacco industry today challenged a cancer researcher's claim that prohibition of cigaret smoking would save 20,000 lives a year.

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PARIS BEACON-NEWS
Paris, Illinois
September 15, 1960

Tobacco-Cancer Issue Flares Again With New Charges

United Press International

MINNEAPOLIS — A medical expert Tuesday blamed 60 per cent of lung cancer deaths on cigarette smoking and the tobacco industry promptly blamed "anti-tobacco zealots" with overlooking evidence to the contrary.

Dr. Michael B. Shimkin, chief of biometry at the Bethesda, Md., National Cancer Institute, told a national cancer conference at the University of Minnesota that a halt to all smoking would annually save 20,000 lives lost to lung cancer.

Timothy V. Hartnett, chairman of the Tobacco Industry Research Committee, said in New York, however, that "It is unfortunate that the conference sponsors virtually limited the discussion of this subject to a few individuals who are historically committed to extreme anti-tobacco views."

He added that "New scientific evidence . . . throws doubt on charges against smoking."

Dr. Shimkin told some 2,000 scientists and physicians at the conference it was "established fact" that smoking causes a "significant proportion" of cancer in the lungs, larynx and oral cavity.

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Source: https://www.industrydocuments.ucsf.edu/docs/llbm0000